

Red Rocks Community College, Weekend College
PHI 115-621: World Religions-West
June 2010, Arvada Campus

Dates: Fri, June 4, 5:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Sat, June 5, 8:00 am - 5:30 pm
Fri, June 11, 5:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Sat, June 12, 8:00 am - 5:30 pm
Fri, June 18, 5:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Sat, June 19, 8:00 am - 5:30 pm

Instructor: Joy Lapp, Ph.D.

Phone: 303-494-2338 (please call only between 9 am and 9 pm - leave a message if I am not home)

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Course Description:

This course is an introductory survey of the major religious traditions of the West with primary emphasis on the monotheistic faiths of Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

Required Texts:

Mary Pat Fisher, *Living Religions*, 7th Edition. Pearson/Prentice Hall, 2008.

Elie Wiesel, *Night*. Hill and Wang, 2006.

Dorothy Day, *Loaves and Fishes: The Inspiring Story of the Catholic Worker Movement*. Orbis, 1963.

Fatima Mernissi, *Dreams of Trespass: Tales of a Harem Girlhood*. Perseus Books, 1994.

Plagiarism:

All writing you submit must be your own, original work. If you borrow ideas from books, journals, or other written sources, including on-line sources, you must give credit to the original source. Failure to do so is plagiarism. Credit will not be given for any assignment that is plagiarized, and depending upon the seriousness of the offence, the student may fail the course. See the College Catalog for the college's policies on plagiarism and cheating.

Late Policy:

Papers submitted after the deadline will receive half credit.

Please read the Elie Wiesel book, Night, and the Chapters 1 and 8 in the Fisher book prior to the first class.

Course Requirements and Evaluation:

Attendance and Participation - 10%

APPA - Attendance, Preparation, Participation, Attitude. Class attendance is required and I will take roll. You earn points by being present, prepared, and participating in the class. Attendance is especially important because of the intensive nature of a weekend class. Points are deducted for each hour of class that you miss, and will impact your final grade. Please be prepared to begin class on time. Prepare reading assignments prior to the class in which they will be discussed and bring your questions and observations. You are responsible to arrange with a classmate for class notes, etc. for any session you may miss.

Field Trip Reflection Papers - 10%

We will be taking field trips to a synagogue, a church, and a mosque. Each student will submit reflection papers on the field trips. Each reflection paper should be about 2-pages, typed, proof-read and spell-checked. Describe observable features of the site and demeanor of participants. Describe your experience at the site (feelings, thoughts, impressions, etc.). How did what you saw/experienced fit with what Fisher's book described of the religion? What did you learn from the experience? What opinions that you had before the class were confirmed, dispelled or broadened? What questions do you still have?

Book Reports - 20%

An autobiographical book has been assigned for each religion so you will have access to an “insider” voice. Submit a 2- to 3- page critical reflection on each book. Select three themes from the book that the author develops, and discuss each theme in depth. Include your own personal reflection/response for each theme. Where do you agree/disagree with the author’s perspective? Why? Credit will not be given for any assignment that is plagiarized, and depending upon the seriousness of the offence, the student may fail the course.

Group Presentations - 10%

Students will work in groups to prepare a 20-minute oral presentation on Christianity or Islam. Topics will be selected from the list below. Selections of videos, music, food, costumes, rituals, ceremonies, or demonstrations are encouraged. Be creative! Presentations will be scheduled during the second and third weeks.

Each student in the group must submit his/her own individual bibliography, using proper MLA format. Your bibliography should include at least five sources, at least two of which should be books (other than your textbooks). You may include internet sources, but be able to justify why you believe they are reliable, educational sites. You do not need to hand in anything except the bibliography. *Have fun!*

Christianity

1. Medieval Christianity: Cathedrals
2. Medieval Christianity: Monasteries
3. St. Francis of Assisi
4. History of the Fundamentalist Movement
5. Vatican II/ Updating the Catholic Church

Islam

1. Pilgrimage to Mecca (including Eid Al-Adha)
2. Islamic Art and Architecture
3. The Golden Age of Islam: Moorish Spain
4. The Iranian Revolution
5. Malcolm X/ The Nation of Islam

Format for Bibliography:

Book:

Gilligan, Carol. *In a Different Voice: Psychological Theory and Women’s Development*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1982.

Magazine Article:

Clancy, Tom. “On a Sub, There’s No Room for Mistakes.” *Newsweek* 28 Aug. 2000: 40-41.

Internet Source:

Landry, Peter. “Adam Smith.” Retrieved January 1, 2008, from <http://www.blupete.com/Literature/Biographies/Philosophy/Smith.htm>.

*If a work has no named author, begin the entry with the title. **Do not** list only a URL with no other information about the specific article you accessed!*

Exams - 50%

There will be an exam related to each of the three religions traditions studied. Questions include objective, short answer and short essay.

Evaluation:

Participation:	10
Field Trips:	10
Book Reports:	20
Group Presentation:	10
<u>Exams</u>	<u>50</u>
Total	100

Grading Scale:

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	Below 60

SCHEDULE AND READINGS

Weekend I - Judaism

Course Introduction, Judaism

Read: Fisher, Chapters 1 and 8

Wiesel, *Night*

Due Mon, June 7: Wiesel Book Report (please send as an email attachment or fax)

Weekend II - Christianity

Christianity

Read: Fisher, Chapter 9

Day, *Loaves and Fishes* (Chapters 1-6 and 17-19 required)

Field Trip: Jewish Synagogue

***Due Fri, June 11: Judaism Exam
Day Book Report***

Due Sat, June 12: Group Presentations on Christianity

Due Mon, June 14: Synagogue Field Trip Paper

Weekend III - Islam

Islam, Course Wrap-up

Read: Fisher, Chapter 10

Mernissi, *Dreams of Trespass*

Field Trip: Christian Orthodox Church and Islamic Mosque

***Due Fri, June 18: Christianity Exam
Mernissi Book Report***

***Due Sat, June 19: Group Presentations on Islam
Islam Exam***

***Due Mon, June 21: Orthodox Church Field Trip Paper
Mosque Field Trip Paper***

***If you wish to have your final papers returned, please provide
a self-addressed, stamped envelope***